

**EVENING MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2001
MINUTES**

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met for dinner at 6:00 p.m. in The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on October 25, 2001. Following dinner, board members and staff moved to Camellia Room on the 8th floor in the Hotel.

Mr. George Walker, SBCJC Chair, officially called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The following members were present: Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth and George Walker. Veldore Heidelberg, David Marsh, Jimmy Murphy and Lawrence Warren were absent. State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff present included: Nancy Alley, Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Wayne Stonecypher, Evelyn Webb and Frankie Walton-White.

Mr. Walker called on Ms. Deborah Gilbert and Ms. Nancy Alley to provide an outlook of workforce for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Gilbert began by providing members with a handout that compared the actual workforce appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$12,462,410 to an estimated figure of \$3,706,535 for Fiscal Year 2003. (Refer to Attachment A.) As reflected in the handout the FY '03 estimates are based on the fact that \$6,000,000 of funds were obligated to workforce from one time bridge monies during the FY '02 appropriations. Additionally, there has been a \$3-\$4 million carry over from the prior fiscal year in the workforce programs for the last several years. However, as explained by Ms. Alley, the current number of workforce projects the colleges are currently engaged in is ahead of previous years and numerous training projects will be needed to train employees for Nissan suppliers and businesses/industries that lose personnel to Nissan and its suppliers. Considering these facts, our projections indicate little or no carry over monies from FY '02.

Discussion ensued. Due to the tremendous effect lack of training monies could have on economic development in the state, the State Workforce Development Council during the November meeting indicated their support for Mr. Joe Jones, the Hinds Community College Workforce Council representative, and Mr. Walker to schedule meetings around the state with newspaper and television personnel to explain the urgent need to continue funding workforce programs at the highest possible level. Mr. Walker reminded members of an effort to explore the potential to strengthen the ties with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) partners and the potential for utilizing WIA monies for workforce training is ongoing.

Mr. Walker then called on Ms. Sara Fox, board liaison for finance, to lead the board in a committee as a whole discussion of the finance agenda items as follows:

- 1) The November 30, 2001, disbursements of Education Enhancement Fund & Budget Contingency Fund in the amounts of \$833,333 from Fund 3295, \$1,989,642 from Fund 4080 and \$48,378 from Fund 4110 for a total of \$2,871,353;
- 2) The budget escalation for 100% federal funds due to the modification of WIA Subgrant #1-S90-004-W7026-1 in the amount of \$41,800 and the Mississippi Rural Health Corps Project in the amount of \$350,000;

- 3) Purchase approvals for the following:
 - a. \$617,983.50 for equipment, software and installation costs related to moving the SBCJC's compressed video network system from a stand-alone point-to-point network to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network;
 - b. the increase in the WIA subgrant mentioned above totaling \$41,800 to allow for the use of an additional third party subgrantee, Mr. Steve Halliburton, and to increase the number of deliverables required through the agreement;
 - c. \$13,405 for the purchase of library online resources;
 - d. \$12,230 in Technology Bond Funds for a modification to the contractual agreement with G.C.R. & Associates for additional services;
 - e. \$212,382 in Workforce Investment Act funds to cover the costs associated with the State Workforce Development Council's strategic plan; and
- 4) Financial statements for Funds 2291 and 3291.

There being no other business, Mr. Walker then called on Ms. Joanna Heidel, board liaison for programs to lead the discussion of program agenda items. Ms. Heidel explained that the board would be asked to consider a change in Section 9 of the SBCJC's Policies and Procedures Manual dealing with the cost to give GED tests and re-tests. Ms. Heidel stated that there was a recommendation to increase the cost of giving the GED test from \$30 to \$40 due to new guidelines and requirements on the testing centers as a result of the newly revised GED test. Additionally it is recommended that the re-test fee for the GED test be changed from \$6 to \$12 per re-test.

At the conclusion of the committee as a whole agenda item, Mr. Walker called on Dr. Ray for general comments. Dr. Ray assured members that even though budgets for next year looked tight, that SBCJC personnel were continuing to do good things. He stated that many of the purchase approvals to be voted on during the November 16, 2001, meeting would enable staff to work more efficiently.

Dr. Ray also shared with members that Mr. Jimmy Murphy was sorry to miss the November meeting due to back trouble. Dr. Ray reported that Ms. Heidelberg and baby son were doing well. Finally, Dr. Ray shared that he had talked with Mr. David Marsh and that he looked forward to joining members for the November 16, 2001, meeting.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.